



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Peter Ellington

Serial No.: 10/663,351

Confirmation No.: 1597

Filed: September 12, 2003

For: EXPANDABLE COUPLING

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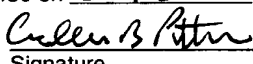
Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner:

Customer No.: 36735

MAIL STOP
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>24 Feb</u> , 2004.	
William B. Patterson	
Typed Name	Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Applicants, and the Attorney who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor and the information in his file, submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

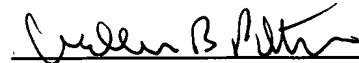
While the information submitted in this Information Disclosure Statement may be material pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is prior art for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other possibly material information as defined under 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

The patents and/or publications submitted herewith are set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449.

If the sum of \$180.00 is due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) pursuant to § 1.97, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this fee, and any other fee necessary to make this submission timely, to the Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0126/WBP.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 2

Application Number

10/663,351

Filing Date

September 12, 2003

First Named Inventor

Peter Ellington

Group Art Unit

3679

Examiner Name

Unknown

Attorney Docket Number

MRKS/0126

Submission Date

February ____, 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	US-09/381,508	03/20/1998	Metcalfe	
	A2	US-09/762,410	08/09/1999	Metcalfe	
	A3	US-10/185,789	06/28/2002	Setterberg	
	A4	US-10/313,920	12/06/2002	Maguire	
	A5	US-10/443,664	05/22/2003	Ellington	
	A6	US-10/664,584	09/17/2003	Evans et al.	
	A7	US-10/670,133	09/26/2003	Macaulay	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	B1	WO 93/12323	06/24/1993	Krylov et al.		
	B2	WO 93/25800 A1	12/23/1993	Lohbeck		
	B3	WO 96/37680	11/28/1996	Lohbeck		
	B4	WO 96/37681 A1	11/28/1996	Campbell		
	B5	WO 96/37687	12/06/1995	Haas et al.		
	B6	WO 97/17524 A2	05/15/1997	Doonnelly		
	B7	WO 97/21901	06/19/1997	Campbell		
	B8	WO 98/22690 A1	05/28/1998	Lohbeck		
	B9	WO 98/32948 A1	07/30/1995	Pietras		
	B10	WO 98/42947 A1	10/01/1998	Metcalfe		
	B11	WO 00/08301 A2	02/17/2000	Metcalfe		
	B12	WO 00/37766 A2	06/29/2000	Simpson		
	B14	EP 0 659 975 A2	06/28/1995	Nagaoka		
	B15	EP 0 171 144 A1	02/12/1986	Stringfellow		
	B16	EP 0 803 637 A2	10/29/1997	Gallagher		
	B17	GB 2 099 529 A	12/08/1982	McGregor		
	B18	GB 2 161 569 A	07/02/1985	Rumert		

Examiner

Date Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 2

Application Number	10/663,351
Filing Date	September 12, 2003
First Named Inventor	Peter Ellington
Group Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0126
Submission Date	February _____, 2004

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
	C1	GB 0221220.7 Search Report	
	C2	GB 0215668.5 Search Report	
	C3	GB 0222321.2 Search Report	
	C4	PCT/GB 98/00863 Written Opinion	
	C5	GB 0215668.5 Search Report	
	C6	"polytetrafluoroethylene", Encyclopedia Britannica; http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=62273 [Accessed October 22, 2002].	
	C7	"industrial polymers, major", Encyclopedia Britannica; http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=62273 [Accessed October 22, 2002].	
	C8		
	C9		
	C10		

Examiner

Date Considered

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